

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the claim amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

Applicants noticed a typographical error on Figure 1. Specifically, the numerical callout "116" should read "11b." A replacement sheet has been attached.

Specification

Applicants noticed a typographical in the specification relating to numerical callout "33a" in Figure 5.

The specification has been amended herein.

Claims Status

Claim 1 and claims 4-10 are pending in this Application. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. The Examiner indicated claims 3, 4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowance and have amended the claims accordingly to reflect the Examiner's comment. Claim 1 now incorporates claims 2 and 3.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 10 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mori, *et al.* (U.S. 4,557,679).

Claim 1 has been amended herein. Claim 1 incorporates claims 2 and 3. Claim 3 was stated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 1 now incorporates the patentable features of claim 3, claim 1 is now patentable over Mori.

Moreover, since claim 1 incorporates the patentable features of claim 1, claims 4-10 are patentable as well since they ultimately depend on claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any fees or extension of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to Account Number 02-2275

Respectfully submitted,
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